

**MINUTES EMS EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
June 30, 2008  
Wayne Township Fire Department Headquarters  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**Members:**

Steve Garrison  
Ron Parsons  
John Zartman

Ed O'Farrell  
Suzan Henke  
Tina Butt

**Staff:**

Michael Garvey  
Julia Fox

Tony Pagano  
Sherrie Crain

**Guests:**

Leon Bell, Wishard Health Services  
Myron Mackey, EMS Commission Member

Chairman Ed O'Farrell introduced himself and thanked everyone for being in attendance. He called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**Old Business**

Tony discussed the last commission meeting. Nothing came from the Education Committee to the Commission. Staff did request the passage of the autism program as presented last year by the Indiana Resource Center for Autism as the accepted state program. The Commission did approve the program. Now staff has to make sure everyone who took the program last year gets credit for the program. As of January 1, 2009 the autism program must be in all the EMS programs including First Responder. Indiana law states that all emergency medical responders must receive the autism training. If you have recently offered the training, hold on to that information until you receive further information from the office. The State is in the process of updating the program. There was some discussion regarding where to take this program from the standpoint of giving support to providers and instructors to improve the delivery of this program in conjunction with the autism group and the local school systems. Tony sent out a request to instructors to see who might be interested in attending another train-the-trainer course and got very minimal response. Julia will be working to see if an online program can be created.

The Future of Indiana EMS Education Committee has not met since late last year. As an aside, Tony introduced Julia Fox who will be taking the EMS Education Manager position and most of Tony's EMS education responsibilities in the very near future. Julia used to work with Lindi Holt at Clarion prior to getting married and moving to Texas for a period of time. She has returned to Indiana and is tooling up to take on her new role in Indiana EMS education. Welcome to Julia and we wish her well in her endeavors. It sounds very proactive and exciting.

Ed O'Farrell brought up a recent e-mail he received from the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) that encouraged their members to read the National EMS Scope of Practice Model that is being proposed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This document suggests a national standard that identifies three levels of EMT – Basic EMT, Advanced EMT, and EMT – Paramedic. They are proposing to eliminate the EMT – Intermediate. The position of the ISFSI is that this is a step backwards instead of a positive improvement. Susan Henke commented on a letter she sent to a [db@NEMSED.org](mailto:db@NEMSED.org) on behalf of Dubois County as to how they felt about the proposed

elimination of the Intermediate level. Susan received a reply that stated it was too late to change the levels of certification in the proposed program model and thanked Susan for her input.

Many comments were offered both pro and con for the existence of the Intermediate status. There doesn't appear that there is a clear direction as to what should happen or where Indiana is going to go with this proposal. Julia will attempt to get with Lindi and see if we can refocus the committee and work on this proposed practice model. The meeting should be scheduled sometime before August 1, 2008.

Tony discussed the status of computer-based testing in Indiana. All Indiana EMS tests are now available through the Ivy Tech testing centers. First responder examinations will still be sent to instructors upon request, but may be taken through Ivy Tech. Fire testing will be moving to the Ivy Tech testing centers shortly.

The only negative comment about the new skill sheets is that folks don't like the color. They are a bit bright. Tony e-mailed them out to his list but they haven't hit the website yet. Keep looking for them there.

### **New Business**

Julia also discussed the alternate autism curriculum. She discussed an autism videotape which is available for review by contacting her. We have also been granted the liberty to duplicate the videotape as we wish. The author of this information also has additional autism information available. Julia is going to do some additional follow-up to assess what is currently available and from whom. She is also going to contact the head of Indiana University's School of Psychology to see what input they may have in assisting us with materials from the autism group at IU.

Tony presented a letter from Fire Chief Scott Gillespie of the Bedford Fire Department suggesting recommendations that would assist local fire departments in ensuring adequate training records. Chief Gillespie had three recommendations:

1. Whoever signs off on inservice must put their State certification number to insure accountability.
2. Require signature of the department chief or training officer if the individual is affiliated.
3. Specify a certain amount of continuing education be done on medical topics instead of allowing all hours to be on a non medical topic.

Tony stated that as the chief of the department, he has the authority to dictate what inservice his members must obtain, but that would not keep them from getting recertified by the State. The committee did not feel that wanted to specify hour categories any further than what is already done.

Tony informed the group that he is changing jobs effective July 11, 2008. He will be staying in the Department of Homeland Security but in a different position. He will become the Exercise Coordinator for District 5. Tony has given us a good many years dedicated to improving EMS in Indiana. We appreciate his support and friendship. We are certainly sad to see him move on and wish him well in his future endeavors.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m. The next meeting will be at Wayne Township at noon on October 20, 2008.

